

Message Text

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PAGE 01 USUN N 02010 01 OF 02 180204Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----008200 180211Z /61

O 180202Z MAY 78
FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1428
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 USUN NEW YORK 02010

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG, MARR, UNSC, LE, IS
SUBJECT: UNIFIL: LATEST VIEWS OF URQUHART AND GUYER

1. SUMMARY: AMB LEONARD MET WITH UNDER SECRETARIES
GENERAL URQUHART AND GUYER TO DISCUSS LATEST UNIFIL
ISSUES. VISIT WAS USEFUL IN ONCE AGAIN PROVIDING
SHOT-IN-THE-ARM TO UN OFFICIALS WHO MUST COPE ON
DAY-TO-DAY BASIS WITH DIFFICULT PROBLEMS TO WHICH THERE
ARE NO READY OR EASY ANSWERS. GUYER'S SCHEDULE IS TO
SPEND MAY 19 IN DAMASCUS AND MAY 20 IN BEIRUT. HE WILL
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PAGE 02 USUN N 02010 01 OF 02 180204Z

SEE ARAFAT, PROBABLY IN BEIRUT. END SUMMARY.

2. LEONARD CALLED ON URQUHART AND GUYER (JAMES JONAH
ALSO PRESENT) TO REVIEW STATUS OF LATEST UNIFIL PROBLEMS.

A. LEBANESE ARMY TO SOUTH LEBANON (USUN 1982).
LEONARD STRESSED IMPORTANCE OF LEBANESE UNIFORMED PRES-

ENCE IN SOUTH; LEBANESE ARMY REPRESENTATION WOULD BE PREFERABLE BUT INCREASE IN UNIFORMED GENDARMES WOULD ALSO BE IMPROVEMENT. HE URGED UN LEND SUPPORT TO EFFORT TO TRANSFER THREE COMPANIES AS A BEGINNING. JONAH RESPONDED BY POINTING OUT GOL'S COMMUNICATIONS/TRANSPORTATION PROBLEMS. HE NOTED HIGHWAY BETWEEN ZAHRANI AND TYRE CONSTITUTES AN AMBUSHERS' PARADISE. ROUTE THROUGH BEKAA VALLEY TO SOUTH WAS MORE FEASIBLE BUT WOULD REQUIRE EXPLICIT PLO COOPERATION THROUGH FATAH-CONTROLLED TERRITORY BEYOND HASBAYA. URQUHART SAID THREE COMPANIES COULD BE LIABILITY FOR UN BOTH IN MILITARY TERMS AND LOGISTICALLY. COMPANIES COULD BECOME ISOLATED; NEW HADDADS COULD EMERGE. PROJECTED SITES FOR THREE COMPANIES -- MARJUYUN, AKIYA (QA'GATYA) AND TYRE -- WOULD NOT SIMPLIFY COORDINATION AND SECURITY PROBLEMS. AFTER FURTHER DISCUSSION, URQUHART AGREED THAT FURTHER APPROACH TO LEBANESE ABOUT THE THREE COMPANIES (ORIGINALLY GEN. SIILASVUO'S PROPOSAL WHEN IDEA OF THREE BATTALIONS WAS SCUTTLED) WOULD BE USEFUL.

B. LEBANESE GENDARMES. LEONARD MOVED TO POSSIBILITY OF BEEFING UP LOCAL GENDARMES; SOME COULD BE APPOINTED LOCALLY BY VILLAGE MUKTARS, AS LONG AS GOL SUPPORTED PHYSICALLY AND POLITICALLY. JONAH ADDED THAT PLO WOULD NOT OPPOSE GENDARMES IN SOUTH; ARAFAT HAD SO STATED TO UN LAST MONTH. HE CLAIMED, HOWEVER, THAT LEBANESE HAVE CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 USUN N 02010 01 OF 02 180204Z

REFUSED THIS OPTION. GUYER SAID CONFESSIONAL ALLEGIANCES CONTINUE TO GROW, THREATENING LEBANESE UNITY. URQUHART CONCLUDED THAT UN SHOULD TAKE UP GENDARMES QUESTION AGAIN WITH PRES. SARKIS. (DESPITE WHAT EMBASSY BEIRUT HAS BEEN TOLD, UN SAYS THERE ARE ONLY ABOUT 50 GENDARMES WITH UNIFIL.)

C. LEBANESE MILITARY LIAISON OFFICERS. REITERATING EARLIER CONVERSATION ON USEFULNESS OF LEBANESE ARMY LIAISON OFFICERS BEING STATIONED WITH CONTINGENTS, LEONARD REMARKED THAT UNIFORMED LEBANESE, HOWEVER FEW, WOULD BE MORALE-BUILDING FACTOR. UN COULD DECIDE HOW AND WHERE TO ASSIGN THESE OFFICIALS. TROOP CONTRIBUTORS WILL RIGHTFULLY BEGIN TO QUESTION LEBANESE RESOLVE TO ASSERT ITS AUTHORITY IF IT CONTINUES TO HOLD BACK ON ASSIGNING ITS OWN PERSONNEL TO THE SOUTH.

D. ZAHRANI AS UNIFIL HEADQUARTERS. AFTER REVIEWING THE DISADVANTAGES OF MAINTAINING UNIFIL HEADQUARTERS IN NAQUORA (EVEN THE TELEPHONES ARE CONNECTED TO ISRAELI SWITCHBOARDS), GUYER SAID AT LEAST MAIN OFFICES OF HEADQUARTERS SHOULD BE TRANSFERRED TO ZAHRANI. GUYER

WILL DISCUSS WITH SYRIANS BOTH USE OF TAPLINE BUILDING
AND SECURITY IN SURROUNDING ZONE. NO-MAN'S LAND TO THE
SOUTH TOWARD TYRE WILL PRESENT PROBLEM, BUT CONSTANT USE
OF HIGHWAY BY UN PERSONNEL MAY CONTRIBUTE TO PACIFYING
THE AREA.

E. ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL AND PALESTINIANS. LEONARD
MENTIONED THAT U.S. INTENDS TO MAKE STRONG APPROACH TO

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PAGE 01 USUN N 02010 02 OF 02 180208Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 USUN NEW YORK 02010

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GOI PRESSING FOR ANNOUNCEMENT OF A DATE FOR FINAL WITH-
DRAWAL. HE ALSO NOTED DEMARCHES BY UK, FRANCE AND
CANADA TO ISRAEL AND THOSE TO ARAB STATES ON PLO COOPERATIO
URQUHART DOUBTED THE ARABS HAD REALIZED FULL
IMPLICATIONS OF UNIFIL DEPLOYMENT OVERWHELMINGLY IN
THE NORTHERN PORTION OF AREA, WITH THE "HOSTILE" ELEMENTS
THE FORCE IS DIRECTED AGAINST BEING PALESTINIANS,
LEBANESE LEFTISTS AND OTHER LOCALS. MOREOVER, HE CLAIMED

AREA VACATED BY IDF CLEARLY DOES NOT REPRESENT 65 PERCENT OF THE AREA ONCE OCCUPIED BY ISRAEL. UN MAPS INDICATE BULGES IN THE LINES SHOWING CONTINUING ISRAELI OCCUPATION
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PAGE 02 USUN N 02010 02 OF 02 180208Z

OF MORE THAN 35 PERCENT. UN OF COURSE INTENDS TO HOLD CLOSELY ITS MAPS AND ASSESSMENT OF EXTENT OF ACTUAL IDF WITHDRAWAL.

F. RAFAT'S PROBLEMS. URQUHART NOTED THAT RADICAL PALESTINIANS WILL CONTINUE TO PRESSURE ARAFAT WITH INCREASING STRENGTH AS LONG AS IDF REMAINS IN SOUTH LEBANON. THE MORE EXTREME PALESTINIANS WILL ADVANCE ARGUMENTS FOR VIOLENCE IF IDF DOES NOT ANNOUNCE A CONCRETE PLAN FOR COMPLETE WITHDRAWAL. LEONARD RECALLED U.S. PLANNED DEMARCHE AND NOTED THAT KUWAITI AMB. BISHAR TOLD US EARLIER THIS WEEK THAT ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL WILL BE VIEWED BY ARABS AS A VICTORY; ARAFAT IS SENSITIVE TO THIS REACTION.

G. SYG WALDHEIM ON POSSIBLE SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION. AFTER LEONARD RESTATED OUR VIEWS ON POTENTIALLY DISASTROUS OUTCOME OF RECONVENING SC TO DEBATE MANDATE, URQUHART SAID IF MAJOR CLASHES TAKE PLACE SYG WOULD HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO REPORT BACK TO SC. HE WOULD BE FORCED TO GO INTO SPECIFICS OF WHAT THE PROBLEMS ARE, WHO HAS RIGHT TO BE IN SOUTH LEBANON AND WHAT COURSE OF ACTION UNIFIL MUST PURSUE. URQUHART TOOK POINT THAT THIS COULD OPEN PANDORA'S BOX AND VIRTUALLY PUT UNIFIL OUT OF BUSINESS.

H. GOL REP TO ACCOMPANY UN ON CALLS ON ARAFAT. UN OFFICIALS UNDERSTOOD LEONARD'S EXPOSITION OF SIGNIFICANCE TO THE RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF LEBANESE AUTHORITY OF INVITING LEBANESE OFFICIALS TO ACCOMPANYING GUYER WHEN HE CALLS ON ARAFAT. HOWEVER, IN THEIR VIEW, GOL WOULD PROBABLY OBJECT ON GROUNDS THAT IT MAKES ARAFAT TOO MUCH A PART OF LEBANESE SITUATION AND THAT GOL WOULD BE EMBARRASSED WHEN ARAFAT BROACHED CAIRO AGREEMENT IN
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PAGE 03 USUN N 02010 02 OF 02 180208Z

PRESENCE OF UN. GUYER SAID SYRIANS MAKE POINT OF NOT BEING PRESENT WHEN UN OFFICIALS SPEAK WITH PLO IN DAMASCUS. GUYER COMMENTED THAT IN MESSAGE ON MAY 16 FROM ARAFAT TO WALDHEIM, FORMER PLEDGED FULL SUPPORT FOR UNIFIL.

3. CONVERSATION CONCLUDED WITH GUYER NOTING THAT HE AND JONAH WOULD BE DEPARTING NYC LATE MAY 17 AND WERE SCHEDULING APPOINTMENTS IN BEIRUT FOR MAY 19 AND DAMASCUS FOR MAY 20 (BEIRUT 2785). GUYER INTENDS TO REVIEW FULL RANGE OF ISSUES WITH LEBANESE OFFICIALS. HE AND JONAH WILL PROBABLY MEET WITH ARAFAT IN BEIRUT, ALTHOUGH POSSIBILITY EXISTS OF THEIR GETTING TOGETHER IN DAMASCUS INSTEAD.

4. PLEASE NOTE GUYER WILL BE IN BEIRUT MAY 19 AND DAMASCUS MAY 20, AS STATED PARA 3 ABOVE, NOT AS GIVEN IN PARA 1. LEONARD

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, INTERNATIONAL PEACEKEEPING FORCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 may 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978USUNN02010
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780208-0884
Format: TEL
From: USUN NEW YORK
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780542/aaaabjsm.tel
Line Count: 236
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: a8588c9a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2644903
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: UNIFIL: LATEST VIEWS OF URQUHART AND GUYER
TAGS: PORG, MARR, LE, IS, UNSC, UNIFIL
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/a8588c9a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014